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A JOINT ITU/CDCC PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF TELECOMMUNICATION

ITU'S PRESENTATION FOR A JOINT ITU/CDCC PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF TELECOMMUNICATION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In the context of geography, environmental factors and communication - dependent socio-economic realities, development of telecommunication services of various types must be seen as an integral part of development strategy and development planning in the Caribbean area as a whole.

1.2 It is possible to foresee that growth of telecommunications will be more and more accelerative in the coming decade with the new dynamics that is being generated in the totality of developmental processes.

1.3 This proposal is addressed to certain dimensions of Telecommunication Development, which in the context of rapidly changing environment, must be appreciated as new imperatives and necessities.

1.4 The various elements presented under this proposal are indeed those that have either tended to be overlooked or have not received adequate or systematic attention. But they reveal an identity of interests and therefore invite regional co-operation.

2. THE GENESIS OF THE PROPOSAL

2.1 The I.T.U., in collaboration with the UNDP has been engaged in a number of studies, surveys etc., addressed to groups of countries in the Caribbean in recent years. Advisory services, feasibility studies etc. in individual countries were also a part of ITU's engagement in the area, within the framework of UNDP/ITU technical co-operation.

2.2 All these engagements did indeed serve to identify what may be called common denominators of needs. Notwithstanding the fact that there exist some variations in the context of national setting and policies, it was possible to conclude that the approach to ways and means of fulfilling those needs could validly be seen as an excellent matrix for regional co-operation.

2.3 Consultations and contacts between ITU and the Secretariat of ECLA led to a discussion on some aspects such as for instance "establishment of emergency telecommunication systems" in the context of disaster preparedness, relief and restoration in the wake of natural disasters in the area.

2.4 Responding to the interest expressed by CDCC in its fifth session in Suriname, ECLA and ITU felt encouraged to scan the Telecommunication situation in the Caribbean in some detail and formulate a programme that focused on the most urgent and important areas deserving joint collaboration and implementation.

3. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROGRAMME

3.1 The programme areas and the circumstances that justify their inclusion in this proposal are discussed below, under the following headings:

(A) Legislative Framework (Telecommunication Law or Regulations).

(B) Radio Frequency Management and Regulatory and Co-ordinating Organization.

(C) Emergency Communication systems.

3.2 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK (TELECOMMUNICATION LAW OR REGULATIONS)

3.2.1 National Legislation, Rules and Regulations etc., provide the basis and the legal framework for governments to guide,

direct and control various aspects of Telecommunication applications and operations that must be seen in the larger context of national interests. Government control in that sense could be seen both as regulatory to prevent misuse or chaos, as well as facilitative to ensure harmonious and orderly growth and operations of all types of Telecommunications in the service of the people.

3.2.2. The framework of legislation or regulations and associated administrative and technical provisions in relation to Telecommunications, generally speaking, are observed to be somewhat inadequate or not comprehensive enough to deal with the necessities of the present time. This calls for, therefore, a review, and perhaps revision and updating.

3.2.3 Taking into account the wide-ranging and ever growing usages of the radio frequency spectrum, and particularly in the context of new Technological advances, the need to update national framework of Rules and Regulations with great care.

3.2.4 It is equally necessary, by virtue of the nature of the medium itself, to keep in view International obligations under the International Telecommunication Convention and associated regulations and standards.

3.2.5 There are a great many similarities among the island countries of the Caribbean to support the assumption of considerable identity in approach, and uniformity in many substantive aspects of regulatory needs. This circumstance would indeed permit an initial assistance to one or two selected countries to evolve an appropriate and comprehensive legal framework

models which will provide a basis for comparative study and adaptation in other island countries in a relatively speedier manner. This is the approach suggested in the joint work programme, which is also seen as promoting co-operative exchanges between the various countries.

3.3 RADIO FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT AND REGULATORY AND CO-ORDINATING ORGANIZATION

3.3.1 Orderly, economic and effective utilisation of the Radio frequency spectrum, seen in the context of its being a limited resource and in the context of ever-growing demands for its exploitation, is becoming a matter of central concern to governments everywhere.

3.3.2 From national point of view, "Frequency management" therefore entails application of modern techniques, and procedures as a continual exercise to ensure interference-free operation of all national services using the frequency spectrum. Such an exercise may be seen as regulatory and co-ordinating function related to the enforcement of Telecommunication law and national regulations, and an authority for licensing of operations and operators.

3.3.3 From the international (including regional) point of view, it is obligatory, in terms of the International Telecommunication Convention and Radio Regulations that go with it, to ensure that all national radio-frequency-related services are co-ordinated to ensure their interference-free operations and delivery, and registered internationally.

3.3.4 Technical monitoring of radio installations, coupled with inspection of equipment etc., are an absolutely essential activity with regulatory aspect of frequency management in the national context. Monitoring data is also an important input to planning of national frequency assignments as a continuous activity.

3.3.5 The programme is also addressed to organizational and infrastructural inadequacies that more often than not inhibit governments in meeting their responsibilities in the overall framework of communication policies and Telecommunication laws, rules and regulations.

3.3.6 It is necessary to evolve organizations within the governments, which will carry the necessary authority and responsibility for regulatory and Co-ordinating functions, licensing of all operations and certification of operators, and continually administer and enforce national rules and regulations incorporated in the national legal framework.

3.3.7 Technical infrastructure comprising appropriate facilities for monitoring of all services, and spectrum observations and analysis, measurements of actual field strengths and propagation characteristics are essential tools for frequency management and regulatory functions.

3.3.8 Last but not the least is the question of "training" in various specialised techniques associated with frequency management, and monitoring, methodologies, procedures

and practices. Regional Co-operation in the field of training of specialised skills and competence would contribute to building up co-operative relationships and uniformity in operational matters.

3.4 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

3.4.1 The Caribbean area as a whole, as is well-known, vulnerable to natural disasters of one kind or another, hurricanes of great intensity being the foremost amongst them. It is hardly necessary to emphasize the crucial role that telecommunications can play in disaster preparedness, and post-disaster restoration and relief operations.

3.4.2 The role of telecommunications could also be seen in other times of disasters, or in other kinds of emergencies that endanger or disrupt the normal life and welfare of society. In that context, telecommunications could be the only important asset to help hold together minimum norms of normalcy in community life, and main essential services such as health, law and order, security, fire services etc.

3.4.3 Various studies and surveys conducted in recent years have yielded sufficient justification to look at this matter as of wide interest among various countries. The proposal therefore seeks to generate a serious programme of study for developing, augmenting or refining as the case may be of emergency communication systems in various countries.

3.4.4 The programme further proposes the actual provision of what may be described as pilot systems, which will serve as models to be adapted with minor modifications and adjustments to such specific requirements in other countries. In this context, the programme may be seen to have a focus on regional co-operation in exchange of experiences and ultimately lead to integration of national emergency systems into a regional emergency communication network. In the future years it is possible to foresee the possibility of a regional system to be co-ordinated and integrated with international systems such as the international satellite systems.

4. WORK PLAN

4.1 The programme presented in this paper could be seen in terms of the activities at field level. The work-plan of these activities is presented as an annex to this paper. It provides a brief outline of actual activities, the inputs and a broad and tentative cost estimate of these inputs as indicative figures.

4.2 FINANCING AND IMPLEMENTATION

4.2.1 As is well-known, the ITU, as a specialized agency for Telecommunications would assume the responsibility of elaborating the project activities in greater detail, and any preparatory work, therefrom, once the programme is approved for implementation by the Commission and financing possibilities for implementation are examined and clearly foreseen.

4.2.2 The programme itself has the merit of being seen as modular within the framework of conceptual integrity and propriety and this could perhaps be seen to provide certain flexibility in assembling resources from different sources.

4.2.3 As is well-known, the technical co-operation activities of the ITU are normally dependent on the resources available within the framework of UNDP, and these are limited and rather scarce in the context of the totality of developmental priorities that need to be funded from this limited resource.

4.2.4 The ITU believes that the programme, in the contect of its vital importance and implications, would invite some serious consideration of the question of financing by other financing institutions, donor governments, and last but not least the regional countries themselves, given the disposition to co-operate in the interest of the region as a whole.

Annex

WORK-PLAN FOR CDCC/ITU JOINT PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

PROGRAMME AREA		ACTIVITIES PROPOSED	INPUTS	TIME-FRAME OR DURATION	APPROXIMATE COSTS US$
A-Legislative Framework or Telecommunication Law, Regulations, etc.	(i)	To elaborate the basis for Telecommunication legislation (with particular reference to Radio Communications), and related Administrative and Technical provisions and rules. - (Preparatory studies to be undertaken at ITU Headquarters).	Legal Expert Services	2 months (Earliest in 1982)	18,000
	(ii)	Assistance to two selected countries in developing or revising their legal framework for Telecommunications to serve as models - which could be adapted with minimum modifications in other countries.	-do-	12 man-months (Following the above in time in 1982)	108,000
	(iii)	Extension to the above mission to other participating or interested countries to help comparative study in their own national context, of the output of the above and their own legislative framework	-do-	4 man-months (following the above)	36,000
				1982	162,000

PROGRAMME AREA		ACTIVITIES PROPOSED	INPUTS	TIME-FRAME OR DURATION	APPROXIMATE COSTS US$
(B) Radio Frequency Management & Regulatory Organization	(i)	Pilot Model installation of a monitoring station (H.F. and VHF)	Expert Services	6-man months from mid-1982	54,000
			Equipment	-do-	100,000
	(ii)	Assistance in developing the techniques, procedures etc. and organization of a regulatory office	Expert Services	To follow above - from end of 1982 6 man-months	54,000
	(iii)	A seminar on Frequency Management for all participating and interested countries in the area - as group training - (for 1 week) (Note - There is a possibility of taking advantage of the UNDP/ITU ongoing project "Telecommunication Training Centre" in PORT OF SPAIN - for purposes of holding this seminar)	Expert Services and Fellowships 1 to 2 per country	1 man-month at the end of the above 1983	40,000
	(iv)	Fellowships to participate in Specialized courses in frequency Management - in the region in UNDP/ITU established facility in Trinidad (Telecommunication Training Centre) or abroad as necessary.	Fellowship	24 man-months of Fellowships in 1983	100,000
				Total	348,000

PROGRAMME AREA		ACTIVITIES PROPOSED	INPUTS	TIME-FRAME OR DURATION	APPROXIMAT COSTS US$
(C) Emergency Communication Systems	(i)	Survey and studies on existing emergency communication systems in relation to domestic networks and devise alternative approaches (perhaps also alternative technological solutions) and plans with recommendations on various elements such as equipment, location, buildings, maintenance aspects etc. (Costs include Travel in the region)	Expertise	6 man-months as soon as possible in 1982	120,000
	(ii)	Design and establishment of model national emergency networks in two or three selected countries, by augmenting and refining of possible existing facilities, linking key centres of administration (and eventually facilitating communication with neighbouring countries)	Expertise	6 man-months following (i) above	108,000
			Equipment	1982 following (i) above	200,000 (subject to substantial revision after completing activity No. (i)
				Provisional Estimate	428,000